



**KING COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Alice Howell (KCMHAB)
Eleanor Owen (Co-Chair/KCMHAB)
Howard Miller (KCMHAB)
Jim Harbaugh (KCASAAB)
Roger Goodman (Co-Chair/KCASAAB)
Ron Sterling (KCMHAB)

Absent:

Linda Brown (KCASAAB)	Bob Seidensticker (KCASAAB)
Mindy Meyring (KCMHAB)	
Pam Dietrick (KCASAAB)	Clifford Thurston (KCMHAB)

Visitors:

Abe Kriger (NAMI-Eastside)
Frank Jose (NAMI Greater Seattle)

Staff:

Amnon Shoenfeld	Sherry Hamilton
Geoff Miller	

I. Introductions/Announcements

Introductions and announcements were made. The folks from NAMI were welcomed and invited to participate in the meeting.

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II. Review and Approval of October 23, 2002 and December 11, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented.

III. Governor's Budget – Report and updated

- Amnon reported on the Governor's Budget and the impact on Mental Health and Chemical Dependency
- Mental Health appears to have a three (3) percent increase in Community Services which is one of the four categories of funds.

Those categories are: Community Services
State Direct Services
Civil Commitment
Administration

The three (3) percent increase may in fact represent a decrease in funding for RSNs because of the inclusion of ECS in the community services budget category. In addition there are issues with the caseload forecast. Specifically, the model used by the Caseload Forecast Council may have an error that adversely impacts the RSNs. The model has been requested but not yet received.

Other cuts include the MIOCTP program, which has been very successful in moving and maintaining mentally ill persons from the criminal justice system into the community. Seattle Mental Health, who operates the program under contract with the RSN has been asked to do a cost-benefit analysis for use the legislature.

Additional cuts include the elimination of the Ticket To Work Program, elimination of general assistance for the unemployable (GAU) and cuts to the basic health plan. All will have an impact on mental health and the cuts to GAU and the Basic Health Plan also impact the CD system.

Chemical Dependency reductions do not appear to be as severe. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding is targeted for reduction and this may impact the staff at the KCAC or services such as

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out-stationing liaison services to the central services offices. In addition, it is unknown if the TANF funding used to match Title XIX Medicaid will continue. The loss of this funding could result in a \$1,000,000 loss in treatment funding.

IV. Education opportunities provided to legislators

- Amnon noted that he had visited with 25 legislators during last few weeks. The mood of the legislators was “very, very depressed.” Amnon stated that he has focused his education efforts on the impacts of the Governor’s budget on the direct impacts to mental health and chemical dependency services. Additionally, he has emphasized the issue of using saving to increase those services that provide saving.

Legislators were sympathetic for the most part except one Senator stated that too many people received mental illness diagnoses.

- Eleanor stated that she had met with several on the legislators on the prescription drug bill.
- Frank Jose noted that Monday, January 27th, was NAMI Lobbying Day.

V. 2002 Action Plan – Legislative Advocacy and Outreach

- Updates: Outreach to legislators, community partners, stakeholders

Several members noted speaking to legislators with varying success. All were encourage to continue to develop relationships with their legislators.

- Assignments/Next Steps – outreach and engagement

It was recommended that each committee member continue to make contacts with legislators about the forum asking them to attend.

Sherry agreed to send an email to the committee members detailing which legislative districts have KCMHAB and/or KCASAAB members, and which

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do not. Roger, Linda, and Howard agreed to make contacts with those legislators who do not have a board member in their district.

VI. Legislative Information

- Eleanor provided copies and information on the prescription drug bills HB 1091, and HB 1214.
- Discussion included progress on the bills, support of the bills by various organizations and organizations opposing the bills; including NAMI of Washington.
- Information on HB 1070 including an update on the new revision which is worse than the old language. The second version of the bill does not include chemical dependency treatment; a change from the first version. It was noted that there are significant problems with the bill which have not been corrected in the second version. However, the second version did address the liability shield.
- HB 1011 Voluntary Intoxication was discussed.
- Other legislation that is in process but has not been introduced including the increase in the taxes on beer, changes to sentencing grid, release of non-violent offenders, and use of the saving generated.
- A by legislative topical sheet was provided to the group that included the mental health, mental illness, chemical dependency legislation current introduced.

VII. How to best use the time each month

- The group discussed how to best use the time each month. Among the suggestions were to ask staff to e-mail abstracts of legislation and analysis to the committee, e-mail budget information when it becomes available, at the next board meeting assure that each board is updated and that bills are identified recommended for the full Boards to support, and that committee members share information as it becomes available.

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V. Public Affairs Plan

- Sherry provided a list of possible local, state, and national public education/recognition events for mental health and substance abuse.
- It was recommended that activities planned in coordination with these public education opportunities be planned in advance.
- The committee discussed potential actions and the need to have a definitive action plan that included or was aware of these opportunities.
- The committee also discussed the need for the boards to be able to make a rapid response to issues, to respond in a proactive manner to upcoming events. The KCASAAB's current practices on rapid communication and response was discussed.

VI. Set Agenda for February 26, 2003 meeting, which will be held as follows:

February 26, 2003
4 PM to 5:30 PM
Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136 or Sherry Hamilton, King County Department of Community and Human Services at (206) 205-1324.

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